1: Burrows--1 (1947-48) Woleaians 1-2
116, 131, 101, 171 Ifalik

"Ifalik is an atoll in the Caroline Islands at 7° 15' north latitude and 147° east longitude. It lies nearly midway between Yap, 400 miles to the west-northwest, and Truk, nearly due east. Guam, in the Marianas, administrative center for the whole Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, is about 350 miles north of Ifalik. (Fig. 1).

The ocean for 100 miles around is dotted with other atolls and reefs, making up what has sometimes been called the Woleai district, though administered as part of Yap district. Woleai, 30 miles west of Ifalik, is considered the most important atoll of the group because it has the largest lagoon and largest population. Eight of these atolls are now inhabited: Woleai, Ifalik, Faraulep, Lamotrek, Elato, Satawal, Eaurupik, and Sorol. Olimarao was formerly inhabited, and some of the others may have been.

The people of all these islands seem to be so nearly alike in language and culture as to constitute a cultural unit which differs perceptibly, though slightly, even from Fais and Ulithi to the northwest. Differences between them and their closest neighbors are too slight to justify use of the term 'culture area' for the Woleai district. 'Sub-area' would be more precise. A hasty test of these similarities was possible during brief stops at several of the islands on the return trip from Ifalik. Dialect, clan names, and the more obvious features of material culture seemed to be the same until we came to Satawal, the easternmost island visited. Here differences began to appear. For instance, the 'tr' of Ifalik was replaced, at least in some words, by 'ch'; and several clan names were different. Sorol, westernmost of the atolls generally included in the

(1947-48)

sub-area, was not visited. It seems safe to say that this account of the native culture of Ifalik will hold true, in a general way, for the other atolls. But the similarity does not extend to all details. Sea-burial, for example, seems to be exclusively an Ifalik custom. The people of Faraulep are said to use for food a small land-shell not eaten on Ifalik. And so on.

For all practical purposes, the main differences probably reflect difference in contact with foreigners. Ifalik was chosen for study because it has had a minimum of outside influence. Woleai represents the maximum. A missionary worked there in the 19th Century. The Japanese built an air-strip there during World War II. The Americans bombed the air-strip, and for a time at the close of the war, a few Americans were stationed there to maintain a LORAN station. A useful supplement to the Ifalik material would be a study of change on Woleai due to this contact."

8: Senfft--284 (1905) 1906 Woleaians
116, 101, 175, 133, 136 Gaferut

This island [MR: Grimes] is known to the natives by the name of "Gaferut," but they have never visited it. They call it the "devil's island" and are afraid to come near it. Yet they were unable to explain their fear for not even any member of the crew of the ship had seen it. We reached the island on December 5 after dark and could not find any anchor ground. The captain sent some of his men on land who during the night were to maintain a fire in order that the ship could stay close to the land. At dawn I rowed ashore. The map of the Admiralty characterizes Grimes as an elevated island, but in reality it is a flat sandbank which in some places rises up to an elevation of 2 meters. The only type of vegetation is a species of mangrove. Apparently a strong storm hit the island a few months ago for most of the trees had lost their branches and many---including the strongest---had been completely uprooted. The fauna consists of innumerable sea birds, which had their loose nests either in the trees or on the level ground; furthermore there were coconut crabs and--to judge from the traces--large turtles, which do not visit the island but at night. The birds were so tame that they could be seized by hand. Gaferut, including the reef, has a length of about 1300 meters; exclusive of the reef it is 600 paces long and 300 paces wide. We could not find anchor ground during the day either.

11: Born--177 (1903) 1904 Woleaians
116, 142, 101 Woleai

In physical structure, dress, language, and customs, the Oleaï natives belong to the Central Carolinians. They are closely related to the natives of Truk, Ululssi, Lamutrik, Satuwal, Sorol, Sonsol, Atogui, and Merir.

For the most part, they are of medium size and slender build; their skin is lighter than that of the people of Jap, and their features are regular and attractive. Their iris is dark brown, the conjunctiva bulbi has a yellow tinge and pigmentary spots. The shades of hair vary from dark brown to almost black, but the children are often dark blond; many of them have curly hair. Many of the women are as tall as the men. Frequently they have beautiful, well-proportioned bodies. The men have only a very slight beard.

17: Meinicke--358 (Prior to 1875) 1876 Woleaians
116, 175, 101 Ifalik

Ifalik (Ifaluk) was discovered by Wilson in 1797 and called by him Wilson Island (others called it Two Sisters Island).

17: Meinicke--358
116, 175, 101

(Prior to 1875) 1876

Woleaians
Faraulep

Faraulep (Faroilap) was discovered by the Spaniard Rodriguez in 1696 (a more modern mariner called it Gardner Island).

17: Meincke--358 (Prior to 1875) 1876 Woleaians
116, 101, 115 Woleai

Ulie, (Ulea, Uleai, according to Gulick properly Wolea) was discovered by Wilson in 1797 who named it Thirteen Islands is one of the most important and best known of all the Carolines.

34: Lesson--122 (1824) 1839 Woleaians
116, 101, 175 Lamotrek

[MC: alternative names for Lamotrek]
Kadu's Lamurrec and Cantova's Lamurrec, Torres' Mugnak, Krusenstein's Lamoursec, the Lamourca, Lamouirec or Falou of Father Legobien. Wilson called it Sweede Island.

41: Bates & Abbott N-5 (1953) 1958
OR21 Woleai OR21
Ifaluk

FOREWORD

IFALUK is a small dot on the map: a half a square mile of land can hardly show much detail on any scale used for Pacific distances. Further, it is spelled "Ifalik" on most maps, through some accident in the history of official spelling for place names. The people who live there call their island in a way that might be rendered "Eefahlook" in a sort of English phonetic spelling. We figure that the people who live there ought to have the final say about the name of their island: hence our divergence from the map makers.

Ifaluk is one of the Caroline Islands, which form part of Micronesia. It is some 700 miles north of New Guinea, some 400 miles south of Guam, and about 1200 miles east of the Philippines. It is a part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, administered by the government of the United States.

Ifaluk is an atoll: a roughly circular reef, built by corals and other lime-secreting organisms, marking off a quiet lagoon in the open ocean, the reef in places piled up to form islets emerging a few feet above the level of the sea. Mr. E. H. Bryan, Jr., of the Bishop Museum, in Honolulu, has compiled a list of the islands of the world that could be classed as "atolls." He finds 409: 136 in Polynesia, 92 in Micronesia, 66 in Melanesia, 15 in Indonesia, 5 northwest of Australia, 68 in the rest of the Indian Ocean, 26 in the Caribbean Sea, and only one in the Atlantic. Atoll formation, then, is primarily a phenomenon of the tropical Pacific: and the word "atoll" carries with it the connotations of warm sun, of white beaches backed by graceful palms, of friendly dark-skinned people, and of an idyllic way of life.

Ifaluk, for us, lived up to these connotations, and we found our life there a continuously rewarding experience: an experience which, in writing this book, we are trying to share.

We tested several ways of meeting the problem of joint authorship. We tried being "we" which had a nice regal sound and worked well enough when we agreed. But we have a great talent for disagreeing,

41: Bates & Abbott N-5 (1953) 1958
OR21 Woleai OR21
Ifaluk

five chief) weighed 182 pounds with a height of 5' 7½". Wolpaitig came closest of any man on the island to having a paunch.

The women were considerably more under American averages for height or weight. They were generally only an inch or so over or under five feet, weighing not much over a hundred pounds. The heaviest, a matron named Ietili of the Garotrong household, weighed 150 pounds, and was 5' 1½" tall. Ted suspected that the small size and light weight of the women was a consequence of the fact that they carried out the regular toil of the island—the heavy gardening work of the taro swamps as well as the work around the houses.

The Ifalukians would be classed as Micronesians: but what that means is anybody's guess. "Micronesia" is a geographical term to cover the hundreds of "tiny islands" of the Marianas, the Carolines, the Marshalls and the Gilberts. The inhabitants of these island groups, the Micronesians, are hardly to be distinguished from the more famous Polynesians: a rapid survey of several anthropology texts shows that the two are more often classed together than not. The inhabitants of the various island groups of Micronesia are certainly more diverse, both culturally and physically, than the inhabitants of Polynesia: but the similarities among all of these light-skinned people of the Pacific are greater than their differences. And the problem of the origin and history of the Ifalukians, of the Caroline Islanders, of the Micronesians, cannot be separated from the much-discussed problem of the origin of the Polynesians.

I think part of the European fascination with Polynesia (which would apply equally to the people of the central Carolines) comes from the fact that these people look very much like ourselves. The features of the Ifalukians were very European, and I amused myself by noting resemblances in certain individuals, in features or apparent characters, to particular friends or acquaintances in the States. The people were not really dark-skinned: both Don and I acquired a skin color within a month that matched the Ifalukian average, as determined by frequent comparisons of arms placed side by side. A pair of naked legs walking by the Fan Nap, observed under the low over-hang of thatch, could not be identified as Ifalukian or American. The Ifalukians